



2 AF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/939,412 Confirmation No. 4304  
Applicant : Jerry L. Aikins et al.  
Filed : August 24, 2001  
Title : BLADE PLATE AND INSTRUMENTS  
TC/A.U. : 3733  
Examiner : James L. Swiger III  
  
Docket No. : ZIM0090-02/ZM0439  
Customer No. : 00832

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 7, 2006, having a period for response set to expire on November 7, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.